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MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE and WRITINGS

Of the Right Honourable

Joseph Addison, Esq;

WITH

HIS CHARACTER,

By *Sir Richard Steele.*

AND

A True Copy of his Last Will and
Testament.

*Unrival'd, as Unmatch'd, be still thy Fame,
And thy own Laurels shade thy envoy'd Name.*

Tickell.

The SECOND EDITION.

1719
L O N D O N:

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in the Strand, 1724.

Price 6 d.

MEMOIRS

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T O
His most Affectionate CONSORT,
The Right Honourable
CHARLOTTE,
Countess of *Warwick* and *Holland*,
THESE
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE

Of the Right Honourable
Joseph Addison, Esq;

With an
Account of his WRITINGS,

Are most humble Dedicated,
By her LADYSHIP'S
most obedient, and
most devoted humble Servant,

G. J.

T O

His most Affectionate Consort

The Right Honourable

CHARLOTTE

Countess of Wessex and London

THESE

MADE ME OIR S

OF THE

LIFE

OF THE Right Honourable

Joseph Addison, Esq.

Written

Account of his Writings

By Mr. John Dryden

By Mr. John Dryden

not printed

in the year 1719

1719



MEMOIRS

Of the Right Honourable

Joseph ADDISON, *Esq;*



HE Writing a Life is at all Times, and in all Circumstances, the most difficult Task of an Historian; *says* Mr. DRYDEN, and notwithstanding the numerous Tribe of *Biographers*, there are but very few, who deserve our Perusal, or can invite a second View. * Yet upon the Death of any Person of distinguish'd Abilities, it is natural for the World to expect some MEMOIRS of the Deceas'd. His Life and Character are immediately enquir'd after, and the writ-

* See, His *Life* of LUCIAN, prefix'd to the Translation of that Author's Works.

ing them is look'd upon as a Debt due to Persons of Merit, and more especially to the Memory of a departed Friend.

These Considerations have prevail'd with me to attempt something in Behalf of the celebrated Mr. ADDISON, the most minute Circumstances of whose Life must afford a very pleasurable Entertainment to every Reader.

Without entering into the detail of a Genealogist, I shall only observe, that He was the Son of the Reverend Dr. LANCELOT ADDISON, Dean of *Litchfield*, a very learned and pious Divine, He was born at *Milston* near *Ambrosebury*, Wiltshire, in the Year 1671, of which Place his Father was Rector. In his Infancy he gave great Expectations of that *Curiosa Felicitas*, which afterwards distinguish'd him as the Glory and Ornament of his Age. He was Educated at the *Charter-House* School, where he attain'd to a Perfection in the *Latin* and *Greek* Languages, and from thence was remov'd to *Queens College* in *Oxford*, from whence in about two Years by the accidental sight of a Copy of his Verses, in the Hands of Dr. *Lancaster* Dean of that House, he was Elected into *Magdalen-College*.

Here he pursu'd his Studies with the utmost Diligence and Application, and took the Degree of *Master of Arts*. He was early taken Notice of for his great Progress in *Classical-Learning*: His Exercises were receiv'd

ceiv'd with unusual Applause; and the great Delicacy of his Genius, Sweetness of his Behaviour, Fineness of his Breeding, and his extensive Good-nature, gain'd him an universal Esteem.

He was honour'd with the Friendship of the politest Persons in the University who were soon sensible of his shining Merit. His abounding Modesty and Humility recommended him to all good Men, and his uncommon Proficiency in ancient and modern Literature made him a most acceptable Companion to the Learned. His Sincerity was great and conspicuous, and as he always detested Flattery, so he carefully avoided ill-natur'd Satire.

If the Heat of his Youth carry'd him into any Excesses, they were very few. No Man ever observ'd a better OEconomy of Life than he did, yet his Conduct was far from displeasing Persons of the most libertine Principles: His superior Sense, was their Admiration, and those were pleas'd with his Humanity, who did not follow his Example.

He was the Delight and Darling of the University, courted by every Body, admir'd and imitated by the best, but equall'd by few. He was endow'd with all those Virtues on which the Happiness of Life and Pleasure of Society depend: His Conversation was so engaging, that they who had once tasted it, would desire no other.

His Addresses were very taking, and whatever he said in publick or private was accompany'd with the greatest Strength of Reason, and all the Graces of Wit. Tho' Mr. ADDISON, at one time from his Father's importunity intended to take Orders, yet, says Sir *Richard Steele*, the contention for him in his early Youth among the People of greatest Power, oblig'd him to turn his Thoughts to the Civil-World: And continues he, to Mr. *Congreve*, You were the Instrument of his becoming acquainted with my Lord *Halifax*, and I doubt not but you remember the warm Instances that Noble Lord made, to the Head of the College, not to insist upon Mr. ADDISON's going into Orders; his Arguments were founded upon " the general Pravity and Corruption " of Men of Business who wanted Liberal " Education ". And I remember, as if I had read the Letter but Yesterday, that my Lord ended with a Compliment, *that however he might be represented, as no Friend To the Church, he never would do it any other Injury than keeping Mr. ADDISON Out of it.* *

He had remarkably distinguish'd himself by his *Latin* compositions, Publish'd at *Oxford* in the *MUSE ANGLICANÆ*.

* See, Sir *Richard Steele*'s Dedication, of the 2^d. Edition of the *DRUMMER*, to Mr. *Congreve*. 4^{to}.

These he Dedicated to that great Encourager of polite Learning, *Charles Montagu* Esq; then Chancellour of the *Exchequer*, who knew how to set a value upon those admirable Performences, which he particularly shewed by his Friendship to Mr. ADDISON ever after.

In the Year 1695 he wrote a Poem to his Majesty (King WILLIAM, upon his successes) Presented to the Right Honourable Sir *John Somers* Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. This piece was receiv'd with such uncommon humanity, as to occasion a Message from the *Keeper*, to desire an acquaintance with the *Author*.

About three years after, Mr. ADDISON having an Inclination to see *France* and *Italy*, was encouraged by his Patron, then Lord Chancellor, *Somers*, in so singular a manner, that his Lordship obtain'd a Yearly Pension of three hundred Pounds from the Crown to support him in his Travels.

In the Year 1701 he sent, a Letter from *Italy*, to the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Halifax* which beautiful Country he thus describes,

*Where'er, my Lord, I turn my Ravish'd Eyes,
Gay gilded Scenes and shining Prospects rise,
Poetick Fields encompass me around,
And still I seem to tread on Classic Ground;*

For

*For here the Muse so oft her Harp has strung,
That not a Mountain rears its Head unsung,
Renown'd in Verse each shady Thicket grows;
And ev'ry Stream in Heav'nly Numbers flows.*

In this delightful Country, Mr. ADDISON as very well observes, “ there are many new
“ Subjects that a Traveller may find to
“ employ himself upon. For my own part,
“ says he, as I have taken notice of several
“ Places and Antiquities that no Body else
“ has spoken of, so, I think, I have men-
“ tion'd but few things in common with
“ others, that are not either set in a new
“ Light, or accompany'd with different Re-
“ flections. I have taken care particularly
“ to consider the several Passages of the
“ Ancient Poets, which have any Relation
“ to the Places or Curiosities that I met
“ with: For before I enter'd on my Voyage
“ I took care to refresh my memory among
“ the *Classic* Authors, and to make such
“ Collections out of 'em as I might after-
“ wards have occasion for. I must confess
“ it was not one of the least Entertain-
“ ments that I met with in Travelling,
“ to examine these several Descriptions, as
“ it were, upon the Spot, and to compare
“ the natural Face of the Country, with
“ the Landships that the Poets have given
“ us of it”.

In *Italy* he compil'd his *Dialogues, upon the usefulness of Ancient Medals*. Especially in relation to the *Latin* and *Greek* Poets.

Mr. *Tickell* tells us, that the Materials for this work "were begun to be cast" into form at *Vienna*, as appears from "a Letter to Mr. *Stepney*, then Minister at that Court, dated in *November* 1702. "some time, *continues he*, before the date of this Letter, Mr. ADDISON had design'd "to return to *England*, when he receiv'd "Advice from his Friends, that he was "pitch'd upon to attend the Army under "Prince *EUGENE*, who had just begun "the War in *Italy*, as Secretary from his "Majesty. But an account, of the Death "of King *William*, which he met with at "*Geneva*, put an end to that thought. And "he had *thereby* leisure to make the Tour "of *Germany*, in his way Home". *

At his return, he Publish'd the *Remarks* he had made on several Parts of *Italy* in the Years 1701, 1702, and 1703. which he Dedicated to the Lord *Somers*.

He did not obtain any Publick-Employment till the Year 1704, when the Lord *Gadolphin* upon a sight of the CAMPAIGN, it being then only carry'd on as far as the following, justly applauded Simile of the *Angel*; so far approv'd the *Poem* that in a few Days af-

* See, his Preface to Mr. *Addison's* Works 4to.

ter, he made the Author a *Commissioner* of *Appeals*, vacant by the removal of the celebrated Mr. *Locke* to the *Council* of *Trade*.

Alluding to the Duke of *Marlborough's* Victories, the Simile is thus introduced,

*So when an Angel by divine Command,
With rising Tempests shakes a guilty Land,
Such as of late o'er pale Britannia past,
Calm and serene he drives the furious Blast;
And pleas'd th' Almighty's Orders to perform,
Rides in the Whirlwind, and directs the
(Storm.*

His next Advancement was to the place of Under-Secretary, which he held under Sir *Charles Hedges* and the late Earl of *Sunderland*. At this Time, he wrote the Opera of *ROSAMOND*; the Poetry of which Piece, as Mr. *Tickell* very well observes, has given as much pleasure in the Closet, as others have afforded from the Stage, with the assistance of Voices and Instruments.

The late Marquis of *Wharton*, being appointed Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* in the Year 1709, he attended him to that Kingdom as Secretary, where he had not been long, before the salary of Keeper of the *Records* there, was considerably rais'd, and that Post bestowed upon him, as a mark of the Queen's favour.

Upon

Upon the Demise of her Majesty he was appointed *Secretary* to the REGENCY, and soon after the KING's Arrival the late Earl of *Sunderland*, being constituted Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, he became a Second time Secretary, for the Affairs of that Kingdom, was Elected Member of Parliament for *Malmsbury* in *Wiltshire*, constituted one of the Lords Commissioners of *Trade*, a little after his Lordship's resignation of that Post; and soon after that, he was made Secretary of State.

He begun the FREEHOLDER, upon the breaking out of the Rebellion in *Scotland*; and the Scheme for the *Treatise* upon the *Christian Religion*, was formed about the end of the Queen's Reign.

In all his publick Stations and Trusts he gain'd a wonderful Applause. His great Vivacity, Penetration, Learning, and Observations, render'd him perfectly Master of the most important Business of the State; neither was he wanting in Dispatch, which in him was so easy, that, in many Cases, what was a Pleasure to Mr. ADDISON, was almost insuperable to others.

And what is a peculiar Commendation of Persons in such advantageous Stations, his Assiduity to serve his Friends, and great Dis-interestedness in so doing, was very remarkable. I have Authority to communicate to the World an Instance of this Nature, in the Case of the Honourable Major

David Dunbar, to whom Mr. ADDISON had done a very signal piece of service in the Year 1715. when he was Secretary to the Earl of *Sunderland*, then Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*. This favour, in the Major's Estimation of it, deserv'd a very Handsome return, and accordingly he sent the Secretary a *Bank-Bill* for 300 Guineas, which he would not by any means accept. I am farther to inform the Reader that upon Mr. ADDISON's refusal of the *Bill*, the Major purchas'd a *Diamond-Ring* of the same Value, and upon his tender of that Present, it was rejected with some Warmth.

How heartily he espous'd the Major's Interest, will appear to his Honour, from the following Letters; as well as the *honest Reason* he gives for *not accepting*, what the Major thought only, an *Equitable Gratitude*.



To the Honourable Major DUNBAR.

SIR,

I this Morning urged to my Lord Lieutenant every thing you suggest in your Letter, and what else came into my thoughts. He told me it stopped with the Secretary, and that he would still see what could be done in it. I spoke to Sir *William St. Quintin* to remove all Difficulties with the Secretary,

Secretary, and will again plead your Cause with His Excellency to morrow Morning. If you send me word where I may wait on you about Eleven a Clock, in some *Bye-Coffee-House*, I will inform you of the Issue of this matter if I find my Lord *Sunderland* at home, and will convince you that I was in Earnest when I wrote to you before, by shewing my self.

Sir,

Your most Dis-interested

Humble Servant

J. ADDISON.



To the Honourable Major DUNBAR.

SIR,

I find there is a very strong Opposition formed against you, but I shall wait on my Lord Lieutenant this Morning and lay your Case before him as advantageously as I can, if he is not engaged in other Company. I am afraid what you say of his Grace * does not portend you any Good.

* *Duke of Marlborough.*

C 2

And

And now Sir believe me, when I assure you, I never did, nor ever will, on any pretence whatsoever take more than the stated and customary Fees of my Office. I might keep the contrary Practice concealed from the World, were I capable of it, but I could not from my Self. And I hope I shall always fear the reproaches of my own Heart more than those of all Mankind. In the mean time if I can serve a Gentleman of Merit, and such a Character as you bear in the World, the satisfaction I meet with on such an occasion is always a Sufficient, and the only Reward to, Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

J. ADDISON.

He gave a Lustre to the Places he enjoy'd and the great Personages he had the Honour to serve: He manag'd his greatest Charge with known Ability; and resign'd it only on Account of his Health, which it was a publick Misfortune he was ever without. If any Objection has been made to his Character, it has proceeded from over-much Modesty, a Fault easily to be forgiven.

Before he was preferr'd to be Secretary of State, he was Marry'd to the Countess of

of *Warwick* in the Year 1716, and 'tis no Wonder that a Man of his universal Accomplishments, and fine Person, should be particularly taken Notice of by a Lady of the first Rank, not only for Quality, but for Beauty and Virtue. Her Ladyship found a Happiness in him, seldom to be met with in Alliances with Nobility; He made a most affectionate and endearing Husband; nor was his Behaviour without suitable Returns from his noble Partner: And the mutual Happiness they enjoy'd is admirably describ'd in these Verses, (address'd to the Countess) on their Marriage, by Mr. *Tickell*.

*WARWICK! to whom is due alone,
The Heart, and Verse of ADDISON;
Whate'er was wrote of Thee to Him,
Must seem below the Glorious Theme;
To Faults tho' mercifully blind,
Tho' Candour sways his Gen'rous Mind;
No Vulgar Muse thy Praise must tell,
To One who Sings and Loves so well.*

*Then give the Word — At thy Desire,
His Hand to Thee shall strike the Lyre;
To distant Times transmit thy Name,
And pay thy Love with deathless Fame;
No less than deathless Fame he owes,
For all the Bliss thy Love bestows.*

E'er

*E'er Troy was built, a hundred Dames
Set the contending World in Flames,
And ruin'd Empires, with their Eyes,
Whose Story now forgotten lyes.*

*A Helen, by great Homer's Care,
Now seems the First that e'er was Fair.
In all her Charms the Nymph appears,
Unfully'd in three thousand Tears,
The Sun himself, and starry Throng,
Have glitter'd only twice as long.*

*Like Fate thy lasting Name shall bless,
The Poet and the Theme no less:*

*Thy matchless Truth and Form divine,
Thro' many a circling Age shall shine;
And future Bards their flatter'd Fair,
To Venus, or to Thee compare.*

*Of Right may'st Thou the Task impose,
To whom his boasted Fame he owes.*

*Oft as on Britain's crowded Stage,
He ravish'd and reform'd the Age;
We thought each Heroine there design'd,
The Work of his Inventive Mind:*

*But now the Secret we desery;
Ask, if he dares the Theft deny,
From Thee he copy'd Martia's Soul,
And Rosamunda's Beauty stole.*

So

*So when an Angel's Form to grace,
Some Maid to Thornhill lends her Face,
From Heav'n we think th' Idea came,
Nor guess he meant a mortal Dame.*

*But why should I, in lowly Lays,
Relate his known, his meanest Praise?
WARWICK! sole Pleasure of his Breast!
Like thee, was ever Woman blest?
To whom in Nuptial Bands are join'd,
The greatest Heart, the greatest Mind:
From Vice no less than Error free,
And true to Honour, as to Thee.
Just Heav'n, that long with Pleasure saw
How firm he kept to Virtue's Law,
Thy Beauty for his Arms prepar'd,
And gives him now his full Reward.*

I next, come to Mr. ADDISON'S Accomplishments, and a particular Account of his Writings. " He was above all Men, says " Sir Richard Steele, in that *Talent* we call " *Humour*, and enjoy'd it in such Perfecti- " on, that I have often reflected, after a " Night spent with him apart from all the " World, that I had had the Pleasure of con- " versing with an intimate Acquaintance of " *Terence* and *Catullus*, who had all their " *Wit* and *Nature* heighten'd with *Humour*,
" more

“ more exquisite and delightful than any
 “ other Man ever possess’d ”.

“ Another Excellence was particular in
 “ this Writer, that when he had taken his
 “ Resolution, or made his Plan for what
 “ he design’d to write, he would walk a-
 “ bout the Room and dictate it into Lan-
 “ guage with as much freedom and ease as
 “ any one could write it down, and attend
 “ to the Coherence and Grammar of what
 “ he dictated”.

“ There is an Elegance, Purity, and Cor-
 “ rectness which appears in all his writings*;
 and in several of his Pieces he has shewn
 the full and lofty Writer, and come up to
Horace’s Description.

————— *Cui mens Divinior, atque os*
Magna sonaturum. —————

He was equally as happy in his Choice of
 Subjects, as in his Election of Words; both
 were judicious, pure, and blameless: And
 though *Cowley* says, that Poets are scarce
 thought Freemen of their Company, with-
 out paying some Duties, and obliging
 themselves to be true to Love. Sooner
 or later they must all pass through that
 Tryal, like *Mahometan* Monks, that are
 bound by their Order, once at least in

* See, the Dedication to *Mr. Congreve*, ut supra.
their

their Life, to make a Pilgrimage to *Mecca*.

In furias ignemq; ruunt: Amor omnibus idem.

And 'tis very natural to Poets to give themselves a Loose on this Subject; yet this Gentleman has depainted the Passion of Love, in the most lively Manner, and in Lines of the strictest Modesty and Decency.

His Pieces, as they are generally wrote in the Cause of Virtue, are, like Virtue, lasting, and will with that only dye: His Genius would, with great Ease, turn to any Kind of Writing, like the finest Gold which is most malleable: His Images are strong and lively: His Metaphors bright and beautiful: His Learning, like the Sun, shines through all, and he has no Cloud of Obscurity.

Read him and admire him; admire him once, and you'll admire him again; your Curiosity, like a Miser's of his Coin, but with more substantial Pleasure, will not be satisfy'd till you have examin'd his Store: And, as upon a Hill, where you see a fine Vale adorn'd with delightful Objects, you are willing to attain the utmost Ascent for the Increase of Prospect, so in reading Mr. ADDISON, read on till you have gone through him, and observ'd his Excellencies and great Perfections. His *Latin Poems* before mention'd, are in Number Eight, viz.

Deus, qui mundum hunc creavit, et regit, et conservat, et L. Pax

I. *Pax* Gulielmi *Auspicij's* Europæ red-
dita, 1697.

II. *Barometri Descriptio.*

III. ΠΥΓΜΑΙΟ-ΓΕΡΑΝΟ-MAXIA;
five, *Prælium inter Pygmæos & Grues com-*
missum.

IV. *Resurrectio delineata ad Altare Coll.*
Magd.. Oxon.

V. *Sphæristerium.*

VI. *Ad D. D. Hannes, insignissimum*
Medicum & Poetam.

VII. *Machinæ Gesticulantes, anglicè A.*
Puppet-Show.

VIII. *Ad Insignissimum Verum D. Tho.*
Burnettum, Sacræ Theoriæ Telluris Autorem.

In these Pieces as Mr. *Sewell* has Re-
mark'd, " the Language is Pure, Elegant,
" and Sounding; the Versification easy and
" numerous, happily adapted to the dif-
" ferent Subjects it describes, free from the
" affected Turns, Puerile Levities, and o-
" ther Flatnesses, which betray a false Taste,
" and Defect of Judgment. His Images are
" chosen with a nice Discernment, work'd
" up with a Delicacy of Imagination, and
" plac'd in the strongest Light. Every thing
" strikes at the first View, and yet will
" bear the strictest Eye to re-examine it:
" The Descriptions, being both just and
" surprizing, put the Mind upon the full
" Stretch as they are preparing, and exceed
" the boldest Expectations when finish'd.

In the year 1692, he wrote a small, but excellent Tract, intituled, *Dissertatio de Insignioribus Romanorum Poetis*. Which is Subjoin'd to his *Latin Poems*; all which are Translated, by Mr. *Sewell* of St. *Peter's Coll.* Camb. Mr. *Newcomb* of *Corpus Christi Coll.* and Mr. *N. Amburst* of St. *John's Coll.* Oxon*.

We shall now proceed to his *English Works*, and of These.

I. The first *Copy of Verses* he Printed was inscribed to Mr. DRYDEN upon his *Translations*, 1693, and soon after this, he presented that Gentleman with a *Translation* of VIRGIL's fourth Georgick, upon which Mr. DRYDEN made him this Compliment, *After Mr. ADDISON's BEES*, says he, *my latter Swarm is hardly worth the Hiving.* || The next Picce he published was,

II. A SONG for St. CECILIA's Day, at Oxford. And through a very earnest Solicitation, he wrote,

III. An Account of the greatest *English Poets*, by way of Epistle to his dear Friend and Chamber-Fellow, at that Time, Mr. *Henry Sacheverell*.

* Printed in one Volume *Curll* by E. *Curll* in the Strand.

|| See, the Postscript to Mr. Dryden's *Translation of Virgil*.

IV. *Milton's* stile Imitated, in a Translation of a Story out of *Virgil's* Third *Aeneid*.

Among the many Encomiums which are justly Mr. *Addison's* due, it ought not to be pass'd over in Silence, as Sir. *Richard Steele* very well observes, that Mr. *Dryden*, in his *Virgil*, after having acknowledg'd, that a certain excellent young Man * had shew'd him many faults in his Translation of *Virgil*, which he had endeavour'd to correct, goes on to say, "Two other worthy Friends of mine, who desire to have their Names conceal'd, seeing me straitned in my Time, took Pity on me, and gave me the *Life of Virgil*, the two Prefaces to the *Pastorals*, and the *Georgicks*, and all the *Arguments*, in Prose, to the whole Translation."

Mr. ADDISON is One of the Two Friends here mention'd by Mr. DRYDEN, who tho' tied down not to Name Mr. ADDISON, pointed at him, so as all mankind conversant in these matters knew him, with an Elogium equal to the highest merit, considering who it was that bestow'd it.

V. In the Year 1713. The Tragedy of CATO was brought upon the Stage, and performed at the Theatre-Royal in *Drury-Lane* with very great Applause.

* Meaning Mr. *Addison*.

" All the Town knows, says Sir *Richard*
 " *Steele*, to Mr. *Congreve*, * how officious
 " I was in bringing it on; and You that
 " know the Town, the Theatre, and Man-
 " kind very well, can judge how necessary
 " it was to take measures for making a
 " Performance of that sort, excellent as it
 " is, Run into popular Applause. I pro-
 " mised before it was acted, and perform-
 " ed my Duty accordingly to the Author,
 " that I would bring together so just an
 " Audience on the first Days of it, that it
 " should be impossible for the Vulgar to
 " put its Success or due Applause to any
 " hazard; some Persons would insinuate,
 " who did not know Mr. *ADDISON*, that
 " it was accomplished with the greatest
 " Pain and Labour, and the issue rather of
 " Learning and Industry, than Capacity and
 " Genius; but I do assure you, that never
 " Play, which would bring the Author
 " any Reputation for Wit and Conduct,
 " notwithstanding it was so long before
 " it was finished, employed the Author so
 " little a Time in writing: If I remem-
 " ber right, the fifth Act was written in
 " less than a Weeks time": This *PLAY*
 still does, and I dare say always will, bring
 the Politest and most numerous Audiences
 of any Modern Tragedy; and must conti-

* See Dedication to the *DRUMMER*, *ut supra*.

due so to do, while we retain the least Notion of *British* Liberty.

VI. The last Dramatical Performance of Mr. ADDISON, was, *The DRUMMER* or the *Haunted House*, a Comedy. Acted at the Theatre Royal in *Drury-Lane*.

" This Play, says Sir *Richard Steele*, *
 " had been some Years in the Hands of
 " the Author, and falling under my Pe-
 " rusal, I thought so well of it, that I
 " persuaded him to make a few Additions
 " and Alterations to it, and let it appear
 " upon the Stage. I own, I was very
 " highly pleas'd with it, and lik'd it the
 " better, for the want of those studied
 " Similies and Repartees, which we who
 " have wrote before him, have thrown in-
 " to our Plays, to indulge and gain upon
 " a false Taste that has prevail'd for ma-
 " ny Years in the *British* Theatre. I be-
 " lieve the Author would have fallen in-
 " to this Way a little more than he has,
 " had he, before the writing of it, been
 " often at Theatrical Representations, and
 " observ'd the Effect that such Ornaments
 " generally have upon the Town. I was
 " confirm'd in my Thoughts of the Play, by
 " the Opinion of better Judges to whom
 " it was communicated; who observ'd that
 " the Scenes were written much after
 " *MOLIERE'S*

“ MOLIÈRE’S Manner, and that an easy
 “ and natural Vein of Humour ran thro’
 “ the whole.

“ I do not question but the Reader will
 “ discover this, and see many Beauties that
 “ escap’d the Audience, the Touches being
 “ too delicate for every Taste in a popular
 “ Assembly. My Brother Sharers were of
 “ Opinion, at the first reading of it, that
 “ it was like a Picture, in which the Strokes
 “ were not strong enough to appear with
 “ Advantage at a Distance. As it is not in
 “ the common way of Writing, the Appro-
 “ bation was at first doubtful, *and the Author*
 “ *not being known*, the DRUMMER made
 “ no great Figure on the Stage, tho’ ex-
 “ quisitely well acted; but when I observe
 “ this, I say a much harder thing of the
 “ Stage, than of the Comedy. When I
 “ say the Stage in this Place, I am under-
 “ stood to mean in general, the present
 “ Taste of Theatrical Representations, where
 “ nothing that is not violent, and as I may
 “ say, grossly delightful, can come on with-
 “ out hazard of being condemned or slight-
 “ ed. But, they who shall read this Play,
 “ after being let into the Secret that it was
 “ wrote by Mr. ADDISON, will probably
 “ be attentive to those Excellencies, which
 “ they before overlook’d, and wonder they
 “ did not till now observe, that there is not
 “ an Expression in the whole Piece, which
 “ has not in it the most nice Propriety and
 “ Aptitude

" Aptitude to the *Character* which utters
 " it ; here is that smiling Mirth, that de-
 " licate Satire, and genteel Raillery which
 " appear'd in Mr. ADDISON when he was
 " free among Intimates: I say when he
 " was free from his remarkable *Bashfulness*,
 " which is a Cloak that hides and muffles
 " Merit ; and his Abilities were cover'd on-
 " ly by *Modesty*, which doubles the Beauties
 " which are seen, and gives Credit and E-
 " steem to all that are conceal'd.

" I would recommend this Comedy as a
 " Closet-piece, to recreate an intelligent
 " Mind in a vacant Hour ; for vacant the
 " Reader must be from every strong Pre-
 " possession, in order to relish an Enter-
 " tainment (*Quod nequeo monstrare & sen-*
 " *tio tantum*) which cannot be enjoy'd to
 " the Degree it deserves, but by those of
 " the most Polite Taste among Scholars,
 " the best Breeding among Gentlemen, and
 " the least acquainted with Sensual Plea-
 " sures among the Ladies. *

VII. The Plan of the SPECTATOR, as
 far as it regards the feigned Person of the
 Author, and of the several Characters that
 compose his Club, was projected in Con-
 cert with Sir *Richard Steele*, who, with
 the greatest Honour and Sincerity, upon all
 Occasions, has acknowledged what was due

* See Dedication to Mr. Congreve, *ut supra*.

to Mr. *Addison* in these Papers, as well as in the *TATLER*, *GUARDIAN*, and every other Undertaking wherein they were concern'd together.

VIII. What remains to be accounted for of Mr. *ADDISON*'s Writings, are, his Translations from *OVID*'s *Metamorphoses*, and some small Pieces, *viz.* *Prologue* to the *Tender Husband*; *Epilogue* to the *British Enchanters*; another to *Phædra* and *Hippolitus*. The 3d Ode of the 4th Book of *HORACE*. On Lady *Manchester*, among the *TOASTS*, &c.

IX. *VERSES* to her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, with the Tragedy of *CATO*.

X. To Sir *Godfrey Kneller*, on his Majesty's Picture.

This Poem having something remarkably Prophetick in it, relating to the Decease both of the *Poet* and the *Painter*, I have therefore, for the Reader's Entertainment, transcrib'd some few Lines from it.

*Kneller with Wonder and Surprise,
We see Britannia's Monarch rise;
And aw'd by thy delusive Hand,
As in the Presence-Chamber stand.*

*The Magick of thy Art calls forth
His Secret Soul and Hidden Worth,
His Probity and Mildness shows,
His Care of Friends, and Scorn of Foes:*

E

In

*In ev'ry Stroke, in ev'ry Line,
Does some exalted Virtue shine,
And Albion's Happiness we trace
Through all the Features of his Face.
Thou hast in Robes of State array'd,
The Kings of half an Age display'd.*

*Here, Swarthy Charles appears, and there,
His Brother with dejected Air:
Triumphant Nassau here we find,
And with him bright Maria join'd;
There Anna Great, as when she sent
Her Armies through the Continent,
E'er yet her Hero was disgrac'd:
O may fam'd BRUNSWICK be the last,
(Though Heav'n should with my Wish agree,
And long preserve thy Art in Thee)
The Last, the Happiest, British King,
Whom THOU shalt Paint, or I shall Sing.*

And in the Conclusion, the Poet thus
beautifully assembles the Deities:

*Great Pan, who went to chace the Fair,
And lov'd the spreading Oak, was there;
Old Saturn too, with up-cast Eyes
Beheld his Abdicated Skies;*

And

*And mighty Mars for War renown'd,
 In Adamantine-Armour frown'd;
 By him the childless Goddess rose,
 Minerva, studious to compose
 Her twisted Threads; the Web she strung,
 And o'er a Loom of Marble hung:
 Thetis, the troubled Ocean's Queen,
 Match'd with a Mortal, next was seen,
 Reclining on a Fun'ral Urn,
 Her short-li'v'd Darling Son to mourn.
 The last was He, whose Thunder slew
 The Titan-Race, a Rebel Crew,
 That from a Hundred Hills ally'd,
 In impious Leagues, their King defy'd.*

*This Wonder of the Sculptor's Hand
 Produc'd, his Art was at a Stand:
 For who would hope new Fame to raise,
 Or risque his well establis'd Praise,
 That his high Genius to approve,
 Had Drawn a GEORGE, or Carv'd a JOVE.*

In Justice to the Memory of Mr. ADDI-
 SON, I think my self obliged to let the
 Publick know, that tho' Mr. Tickell in the
 Edition he has given of his Works, has
 inserted, The *Whig Examiner*; Count *Ta-*
riff, and a few other Papers, not general-

ly known to have been written by Mr. ADDISON; yet he has omitted the following Pieces, which are the Genuine Performances of that Gentleman,

I. *The DRUMMER, a Comedy.*

II. *A Dissertation upon the CLASSICKS.*

III. *The Old Whig.* Two Pamphlets, occasion'd by the *Peerage-Bill.*

IV. *A Translation of the first Book of the ILIAD of HOMER.*

Concerning the *First* and *Last* of which Pieces, Sir *Richard Steele* thus delivers himself to Mr. *Congreve*. *

“ I will put all my Credit among Men
 “ of Wit for the Truth of my Averment,
 “ when I presume to say, that no one but
 “ Mr. ADDISON was the Writer of the
 “ DRUMMER. — And therefore I hope,
 “ no Body will be wrong'd, or think himself
 “ aggriev'd, that I give this rejected Work
 “ where I do; and if a certain Gentleman
 “ † is injur'd by it, I will allow I have
 “ wrong'd him, upon this Issue, that (if the
 “ reputed Translator of the First Book of
 “ *Homer*, shall please to give us another Book)
 “ there shall appear another good Judge in
 “ Poetry, besides Mr. *Alexander Pope*,
 “ who shall like it.”

* Conclusion of the Dedication of the *Drummer*.

† Mr. *Tickell*.

Thus have I gone through all the Writings of Mr. ADDISON, and it is my sincere Opinion, that of every Performance of his, the Publick may say with HORACE,

— *hic Decies repetita placebit.*

His Works will always please the Polite, Judicious and Learned; and every unprejudic'd Person must be oblig'd to own his Merit.

I have been inform'd, that some Years since, Mr. ADDISON had a Brother, who Died in the *East Indies*, after he had been there some Time, and accumulated great Wealth; and by his Will left his whole Estate to Mr. ADDISON; which was a considerable Addition to his Patrimony, and contributed to his making a Figure in the World; tho' his Merit alone recommended him to those Great Employments he held and laid down with so much Honour.

After an Indisposition of some Continuance, which terminated in an *Asthma* and *Dropsy*: He Died at *Holland-House* near *Kensington*, on *Wednesday* the 17th of *June*, 1719. He lay in State in the *Jerusalem Chamber* on the 26th of the same Month, and was afterwards interr'd in *Westminster-Abbey*. He has left Issue, by the Countess of *Warwick* and *Holland*, one Daughter, *Charlotte Addison*, to whom, by his last Will and Testament, hereunto subjoin'd, the Countess is appointed Guardian

dian; and thro' a prevalent Affection to his deserving Lady, he has given his whole Estate to her Ladyship, having an entire Confidence in Her, that she will make a right Application of it, with Respect to his Daughter. This was the utmost an affectionate Husband could do for an endearing Wife: And Mr. ADDISON, thoroughly sensible of the great Merit of his Lady, the Glory of her Sex, made a Disposition of his Fortune accordingly; but her Loss in him is irreparable; nor does she share the Misfortune only, but the Publick also.

He Dy'd universally lamented, and has left behind him a Character which every one would wish for, but very few attain, *viz.* That of a *Great and Good Man.*



A true Copy of the last Will and Testament of JOSEPH ADDISON Esq;



In the Name of God, Amen.
I JOSEPH ADDISON, now of the Parish of *Kensington* in the County of *Middlesex*, Esq; being of sound and disposing Mind and Memory, yet considering the Uncertainty of this mortal Life, do think it necessary to make

make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, which is as followeth :

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my dear and loving Wife, the Countess of *Warwick* and *Holland*, her Heirs, Executors, and Assigns, all and singular my real and personal Estate, whatsoever and wheresoever, of which I am now seized, or possessed, or intituled unto; upon this Condition, that my said dear Wife shall out of my said Estates, pay, within half a Year after my Decease, the Sum of five hundred Pounds to my Sister Mrs. COMBES, and the yearly Sum of fifty Pounds to my Mother, now living at *Coventry*, during her Life, by half yearly Payments, *viz.* at *Michaelmas* and *Lady-Day*, the first of the said Payments to be made at the first of the said Feasts that shall happen next after my Decease; and I do make and ordain my said dear Wife Executrix of this my last Will : And I do also appoint her to be Guardian of my dear Child CHARLOTTE ADDISON, until she shall attain her Age of One and Twenty, being well assured that she will take due Care of her Education and Maintenance, and provide for her in Case she live to be married.

Item, I do hereby revoke all former Wills by me made : In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this fourteenth

teenth Day of *May*, in the fifth Year of the
Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *GEORGE*,
and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand
Seven Hundred and Nineteen.

*J*OSEPH ADDISON.

Signed, sealed, published, and declared
by the said *Joseph Addison* to be his last
Will, in the Presence of us, who have in
his Presence, and by his Order, subscribed
our Names as Witnesses thereunto.

THOMAS MARRIOTT,
THOMAS JUDD,
WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

*Probatum Londini, &c. Viceffimo die
Mensis Junii Anno Domini 1719.
Coram venerabilis Viri Exton Sayer
Legum Doctore Surg. &c. Juramento
Prænobilis & Honorandæ Faminæ
Charlotte Domine Comitissæ de
Warwick & Holland, Relictæ dicti
Defuncti & Executricis, &c. Cui
&c. De bene, &c. Jurat. &c.*

HENRY FARRANT, Registrar Deputat.

F I N I S.